

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 8, 2010

Immediately Following Previous Committees or

7:30 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Committee of the Whole

Shane Ewald, Chair

Beryl D. Anderson

Thomas R. Kneeland

John R. McAlister

Nancy McGregor

David L. Samuel

Members Absent: John McAlister and Beryl D. Anderson

Members Present: Shane W. Ewald, Nancy R. McGregor, Thomas R. Kneeland and David L. Samuel

Additional Attendees:

Karl Wetherholt; Mike Andrako; Angel Mumma; Jennifer Teal; Grant Reveal; Chief Murphy; Lt. Spence; Det. Choung; Terry Emery; Dottie Franey; Brandi Braun; Sadicka White; Anthony Jones; Tony Collins; Troy Euton; Tom Weber; Isobel Sherwood; Brian Hoyt; Dwight McCabe from VRG; Press

ISSUES - From Director of Public Service:

Office Modification Project (Tour of Existing Areas)

An interactive tour of the proposed areas of modification was conducted by Emery.

Emery said we have multiple pieces of legislation; we are requesting passage as emergency with waiver on all of them in order to utilize all available work space as soon as possible and minimize expense.

Euton said some of the urgency of this request is due to Parks; the needs of our citizens and employees really picks up through the spring and summer.

Emery said the first item is for the Mayor to enter into contract; the lowest qualified construction bid was from Ardmore Construction for \$77,900 with a contingency of 10%; it will require supplemental appropriation legislation as well as the authorization for the Mayor to enter into contract; next we have the modular furniture project for \$13,536; we also are adding a 10% contingency here; this piece of the project is where we remove existing furniture and store it until the area is renovated; then when modifications are done we have it reassembled; the last item is the front desk security; we are asking for \$2990 plus a 10% contingency for a metal gate to secure the front desk reception area; we are fine if you want to just give this first reading. Ewald said I think they all should have first reading and then come back to Finance Committee. Emery said this cost is \$94,000; if we have to use the contingencies it is \$103,000; that would be if there are other changes; in the mean time I can schedule Anderson and McAlister on a tour.

Recommendation: 1st Reading; return to Finance Committee on all issues.

ISSUES - From Director of Development:

Job Ready Sites Grant Application

Jones did a power point presentation on the objectives and benefits of the JRS (Job Ready Sites) Program and Development's request to apply for a grant by April 1, 2010: a copy of the presentation is available in the Council Office.

Questions:

Kneeland said back about 2 slides it says the City's estimated cash outlay would be \$15,000; can you talk about what would be accomplished to remediate the environmental contamination; we know there is a gas station located there; the key component here is the real end cost to us is about \$15,000 because we already have the money in the revolving loan fund to use for remediation on its own; to me it is worth the application to get the brownfield cleaned up. Jones said it would be \$370,000 to clean

up the site and make it ready for development; through the JRS Grant, we could use the revolving loan fund and it is like 5% of that cost. Kneeland said so this is a no brainer to me.

Samuel said can you put in writing the Green Pointe Marketing Plan. Jones said it will definitely be in writing; actually it will be in video, and on social media, and on our web site. White said in a few weeks when we present our department's goals and objectives, you will see our marketing plan being updated; this is how we will apply that overall to a specific project; these are the major steps; we do data mining from 6 systems; we find companies leaving and we utilize site selectors; for the first time the IEDC (International Economic Development Council) lobbied to come here; their site selectors are coming 2 days before the conference; the Mayor is proposing we go; we would like to get appointments and put our specific sites right in front of them. Samuel said do we have a comprehensive City wide marketing plan. White said the City does not; our PIM (Public Information Manager) Hoyt is working on it; we are making ours fit inside what the City does. Samuel said I was very disappointed in the plan that we spent money for; I felt Fahlgren Mortine could have done a better job; most of it was common sense. Braun said we hired Fahlgren to look at the marketing for the Downtown area only and how the Downtown message could be communicated; now that we have a PIM on the job, he is tasked to put together a communication plan. Hoyt said we have a lot of stuff started; their most important recommendation was bring the stake holders together; we have started working with the CVB and Chamber and not stepping on each other. Ewald said I agree with Samuel; the itemized outcome list of recommendations from Fahlgren is just common sense; our staff at the City could do this; we paid this much money for something our staff could do. Braun said some things they recommended are already going forward; they did their research; I am not prepared to go into this tonight; Parks and Rec planned use of their dollars spent based on this marketing tool; also this Plan is not just for us; we were always supposed to bring in and coordinate with our partners. Ewald we have staff here on a daily basis that can see it; very frustrated at the overall conclusions. Braun said Hoyt has done one presentation; he will continue to show what he is doing and how we are incorporating this information. Ewald said I don't have a problem with him; it is just that this report shocked us; it is not an in depth analysis; it is just cursory observations.

White said are there any other questions on the JRS Grant Application.

McGregor said for the right of way that goes east, is all that Gahanna property. White said it has been annexed so now it is within the City.

Ewald said if we take the gas station down, where will services go. Emery said we always have had a plan to out source to a local service station in the interim; then long term we hope to have a new site.

Sherwood stated the request is for first reading on the 15th, then passage at a special meeting prior to application deadline of April 1. Kneeland said we can just do it with waiver and emergency.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Waiver of 2nd Reading, Consent Agenda, Emergency Language.

ISSUES - From Director of Parks & Recreation:

Parks & Recreation Department Presentation

Collins and Euton presented a power point on the Parks and Recreation Department; Collins said he had been waiting 10 years for this opportunity to speak to Council; had a

lot of information to put into it; a copy of the presentation is available in the Council Office.

Questions and Comments:

Kneeland said that was a nice presentation; I would like to comment on one slide that showed revenue; it struck me that the golf course and the recreation programs generate over 1 million; does that make it a wash to cover costs or is revenue actually generated from this as a profit; if it produces revenue that contributes to health of the General Fund, there are not too many programs around that can provide those numbers. Collins said on aquatic side, in Central Ohio, our family member rate is \$300; other communities charge about half, but our Board has set these based on user fees which is a good thing; the golf and recreation provide profit; the most economical is the golf course. Kneeland said thank you for sharing.

ISSUES - From Council:

Council Appointment - Interview Process

Sherwood said we should discuss when to hold the interviews of Council applicants; the application deadline is March 19 and we have until April 14 to make the appointment; I will not have the information in Friday packets on the 19th, but I will hand deliver to you on the 22nd; we have from March 15 based on Charter requirement of having 30 days after the first meeting the resignation is submitted; want to know if you want to give up your 5th Monday to hold interviews. Kneeland said there is no special meeting so we can do executive session. McGregor asked how many applicants do we have. Sherwood said several. Ewald said we can do it on the 29th; then add days based on the number of people that apply. Kneeland said we need to keep a few days for the decision process; so everyone is OK for the 29th; start at 6 or 6:30. Ewald said 6:30 is fine.

Meeting Adjourned.

Della Brandenberger, Reporting